

## Making a Thematic Map

1. Describe the point of your map in a single sentence. The information you want to convey will affect the style of your map. Choose from one of the following topics:
  - Drought
  - Flood
  - Food Security
  - Weather Hazards
  - Conflict
  - Other:
2. Use the website below to conduct the research for your thematic map. Once you decide on your topic, research all of the maps on your given topic and combine this information to create and design your own thematic map.  
<http://ochaonline.un.org/MapCentre/ThematicMaps/tabid/4135/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
3. Arrange your data in a grid you can refer to when making your map. Decide how you will label the parts of your map. For example columns in the grid for Conflict could show years 2000-2010. Rows could contain the consistent figure you are using to measure conflict in Africa.
4. Set limits on what you will present in a thematic map. Typically, two or three variables are usually the maximum number to present on a map.
5. Create a map-key from your data. This can mean correlating shades of green with the population numbers they represent, decoding different colors of dots, or explaining symbols. Once a viewer has read your key, ideally he or she can understand the whole map at a single examination.
6. Reexamine your data if you find your map extremely difficult to produce or hard to understand. While a map can make information clear, the clarity of the map really depends on the quality of the information; and not the other way round. In situations where changes are small or gradual, for example, a chart may be the most efficient way to convey this information.

Read more: [How to Make a Thematic Map | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/how_6938764_make-thematic-map.html#ixzz1J5N3mGNH)  
[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_6938764\\_make-thematic-map.html#ixzz1J5N3mGNH](http://www.ehow.com/how_6938764_make-thematic-map.html#ixzz1J5N3mGNH)

